Child Labour in the Country

563. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of child labour in the country at present and the steps taken by Government for improving their working conditions and the educational facilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): The estimated number of child workers in the age group 5-14 years in the country in 1986, worked out on the basis of the National Sample Survey (38th round) and the population figures as projected by the Expert Committee on Population Projections was 16.668 million. Some labour laws such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the States' Shops & Establishments Acts, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 etc., contain provisions to prohibit employment of children in some of the employment and regulate the working conditions in other employments.

The Government has also taken up special programmes for the education of child workers in the permitted employments in various places.

Production and Export of Wheat

564. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimate of the wheat crop this year; and

(b) what is the quantity of wheat proposed to be exported if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The final estimates of production of wheat are yet to be received from the States. However, according to present assessments, the production of wheat in the country is expected to be about 51.0 million tonnes.

(b) At present, there is no proposal for export of wheat. However, a quantity of 50 thousand tonnes of wheat left out of commodity loan extended to Vietnam in 1986 is proposed to be exported this year.

565. [*Transferred to the 3rd May, 1989*]

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

566. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding present stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool;

(b) whether the present stock of foodgrains is satisfactory and adequate;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to import foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in that direction and the amount of foreign exchange to be spent therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The adequacy or otherwise of the foodgrain stocks with the public agencies will be clear after the procurement operation of Wheat and Rabi rice is over. Government keeps its option open to import foodgrains if considered necessary in the light of the assessment of overall food situation.

Livestock Census

567. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livestock census which was due in 1987 has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof: